Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04606 01 OF 02 171412Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------171416Z 039934 /42
O P 171314Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0642
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 4606

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS IN LONDON: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS

1. ON HIS RETURN LAST THURSDAY EVENING FROM LONDON, I SPOKE BY TELEPHONE ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND HE AGREED TO MEET ME ON THE NEXT DAY TO DISCUSS THE JUST-COMPLETED LONDON MEETINGS. HOWEVER, HE BECAME ILL DURING THE NIGHT WITH A PAINFULLY INFECTED TOOTH AND SWOLLEN FACE, AND I WAS ABLE TO GET TOGETHER WITH HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME ONLY LAST NIGHT, MAY 16.

2. OVERALL, HE SAID THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS FELT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE AND A SUBSTANTIAL SUCCESS. A NENEWED SPIRIT OF STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE HAD PERVADED THE CONFERENCE AND THIS RADIATED TO PROVIDE A NEW WAVE OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MADE A SPLENDID IMPRESSION ON EVERYONE AND HAD PROJECTED, BENEATH HIS WARM AND FRIENDLY EXTERIOR, A SENCE OF DEEP INNER STRENGTH, ABILITY AND TOUGHNESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04606 01 OF 02 171412Z

3. BITSIOS SAID THAT THEIR SHORT, PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS THE HIGHPOINT OF ALL THEIR MEETINGS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS TOO SHORT TO ACCOMPLISH VERY MUCH BUT THE TWO LEADERS HAD GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND OBVIOUSLY DEVELOPED AN IMMEDIATE FEELING OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AND RAPPORT. HE ASKED ME IF I HAD RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE MEETING I SAID NO, AND HE PROCEEDED TO BRIEF ME FROM THEIR RECORDS (WHICH I SHALL NOT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

REPEAT HERE SINCE THIS INFORMATION IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN
WASHINGTON).

4. THE ONLY OFF KEY NOTE IN CARAMANLIS' MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT, FROM THE GREEK POINT OF VIEW, CAME WEHN SOMEONE
"LECTURED" (AS HE PUT IT) CARAMANLIS ABOUT HOW MUCH MONEY THE
U.S. HAD INVESTED IN NATO AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR GREECE
AND TURKEY TO MAKE "MUTUAL", SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS ON
BILATERAL PROBLEMS TO RESTORE THE INTEGRITY AND STRENGTH OF
NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK. HE SAID THAT HE AND CARAMANLIS THOUGHT
THIS WAS UNNECESSARY AND IN ANY CASE WAS NOT THE BEST RATIONALE FOR
APPROACHING GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES AT THE MOMENT. I SOUGHT
TO INTERPRET AND DEVELOP THE USG'S LINE OF THINKING ON THIS A
LITTLE MORE BUT BITSIOS PREFERRED TO DISMISS THIS OCCURRENCE
AS MERELY UNFORTUNATE.

5. AS FOR "MUTUAL" SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS, WHICH HE SAID HAD
BEENMENTIONED TWICE DURING THE MEETING, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY
WHAT "CONCESSIONS" TURKEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE IN THE AEGEAN?
WASN'T IT REALLY GREECE THAT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS?
WAS THE USG DEVELOPING A THESIS AS TO WHAT CONCESSIONS GREECE
SHOULD MAKE TO TURKEY? HE AND CARAMANLIS WERE MORE THAN A LITTLE
WORRIED ABOUT HIS PROSPECT. THEY SAW NO ROOM FOR THE U.S.
OR ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY TO GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN AEGEAN
PROBLEMS. THEY THOUGHT THAT OTHERS, INCLUDING THE U.S., COULD
MORE HELPFULLY AND WISELY SUPPORT A PROCESS, OR A FRAMEWORK,
FOR DEALING WITH AEGEAN PROBLEMS -- SUCH AS CARAMANLIS HAS
REPEATEDLY PROPOSED -- AND NOT AGET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
MATTER. IF U.S. OFFICIALS WERE BEGINNING TO FORMULATE WHAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

"CONCESSONS" GREECE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE IN THE AEGEAN,BITSIOS
WAS WORRIED SINCE THIS WENT TO MATTERS AFFECTING GREECE'S
ULTIMATE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT TO ASSESS AND CARRY TO THE GREEK PEOPLE. (COMMENT:
BITSIOS WAS CALM AND OBJECTIVE IN MAKINGTHIS POINT, NOT SO MUCH
AS A COMPLAINT ABOUT COMMENTS MADE IN LONDON, BUT MORE IN THE
NATURE OF A KIND OF ADVANCE WARNING THAT THE USG SHOULD BE
EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AND PRUDENT IF IT WAS SEEKING TO PLAY A LARGER
ROLEIN DEALING WITH GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN.)
I TOLD BITSIOS I WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOG'S VIEWS WERE WELL
UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON AND FELT SURE WEWOULD CONTINUE TO CONSULT
VERY CLOSELY WITH ATHENS ON THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE
AREA.

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04606 02 OF 02 171421Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------171425Z 040066 /41
O P 171314Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0643
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 4606

EXDIS

6. AS TO THEIR OTHER MEETINGS IN LONDON, BITSIOS SAID THAT THE LONG MEETING CARAMANLIS HAD MAY 9 WITH CLARK CLIFFORD HAS BEEN VERY GOOD AND HELPFUL. THEY HAD HAD A QUITE USEFUL DISCUSSION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AMONG OTHER THINGS (ALTHOUGH I SENSED THERE WAS SOME DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE WAY CLIFFORD HAD ASSESSED AND CHARACTERIZED THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE AT THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA LAST MONTH AND THE WAY CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS EVALUATED THEM). HE SAID THAT JOHN TZOUNIS HAD ALSO HAD SEVERAL GOOD TALKS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AND NELSON LEDSKY.

7. BITSIOS DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON CARAMANLIS' MEETINGS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN LEADERS EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT HE HAD HAD A FULL PROGRAM OF SUCH MEETINGS AND THAT THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, CARAMANLIS TRAVELED TO PARIS AND HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH GISCARD ON THE SAME SUBJECT AND APPARENTLY RECEIVED REASSURANCES OF FRANCE'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR GREECE'S EARLY ENTRY, AS DISTINCT FROM THE GOF'S POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

8. IN CLOSING THIS PART OF OUR CONVERSATION, BITSIOS INDICATED HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN LONDON THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04606 02 OF 02 171421Z

IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY AND SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS AFFECTING U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS, INCLUDING CYPRUS AND GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD INVITED THE SECRETARY TO MAKE A VISIT TO ATHENS, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY WAS NONCOMMITTAL. BITSIOS SAID HE HAD

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ALSO PROPOSED TO GO AND MEET WITH THE SECRETARY IN A THIRD COUNTRY AT SOME POINT DURING THE COURSE OF THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS, AND THAT THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING BEING WORKED OUT, PERHAPS IN SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN JULY. BITSIOS SAID IF I HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER ON THIS TO LET HIM KNOW AND I SAID I WOULD DO SO.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS04606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770175-0096
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabrmm.tel
Line Count: 177
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 923cbe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2497909
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAST WEEK\'S MEETINGS IN LONDON: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS), (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/923cbe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009